

Michael Havir

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About me

I am a Melbourne musician, composer and sound designer who collaborates with music ensembles, filmmakers, dancers, physical performers, visual artists, theatre makers and VJ's.

Working with artists as varied as Yothu Yindi, US singer Toni Childs, The Village People, Chamber Made, Born in a Taxi, Danceworks, Polyglot, Queensland Theatre Company, NICA, Playback, SBS-TV, the ABC, Melbourne Workers Theatre, indigenous songwriter Frank Yamma, filmmaker Vanessa White, VJ Richard de Souza, dancer Tony Yap and Javanese musician Ria Soemardjo I have built a practice combining versatility and adaptability with a strong sense of theatre.

Focusing on improvisation I have developed a special interest in using music, sound, recorded and live text and audio looping to create immersive soundtracks on the fly. My work has been described as, "Astonishing electronic soundscaping" (Cameron Woodhead The Age)... "sublime.... the brilliance of the composition never overshadows the performance itself.... it adds texture, depth and a necessary point of reference about the emotion being projected." (Michael Kingston Buzz Cuts)

I am the recipient of two ARIA awards (2019 and 2016) with the Melbourne Ska Orchestra, an ATOM award and was Australia's entrant at the MILIA festival France for multi media project Three Mile Creek. I am currently an artistic associate with physical theatre company Born in a Taxi. I compose and play keyboards for the Melbourne Ska Orchestra and electro cumbia band Dr. Hernandez and with synthesizer player Ania Reynolds in experimental soundtrack duo The Small Cars.

Recent Work

2021

Butterfly House

Original electronic music score by The Small Cars (Michael Havir and Ania Reynolds) for outdoor interactive show by physical theatre company Born in a Taxi.

2020

No Former Performer

3 night of improvised performance lock down event Facebook broadcast with Born in a Taxi. Live electro acoustic performance.

Solo Performance

Creation of a repertoire of experimental solo electronic music pieces that can be adapted and performed in both recorded, live and online environments. With support of Creative Victoria.

Dark Tales

Soundtrack for radio podcasts of original stories by Christine Grace. Victorian Seniors Festival.

International Artists

Tour to New Caledonia (Jan 2020) with Melbourne Ska Orchestra. Gigs with Rhoda Dakar (UK), Eugene Grey (USA)

2019

Just Shows To Go

7 week tour of regional Victoria with original band Dr Hernandez. Live electro cumbia.

Sight of Sound

Live cymatic science-art audio-visual performance with designer David Murphy and Javanese singer and percussionist Ria Soemardjo. Due West Festival.

Children of the Evolution

Theatre work devised with 5 children and teenagers for Due West Festival with Born in a Taxi and director Jackson Castiglione. Electro music score devised with the cast and team.

8 Remedios

Release of album of original works with electro cumbia band Dr Hernandez.

Leighs House

Live performance celebrating the costumes and music of artist Leigh Bowery. Bowery Theatre St Albans.

ARIA award for Best World Music Album with Melbourne Ska Orchestra

for One Year of Ska. Includes Michael's single Generations Gone.

Arts Mildura Museum of Innocence

Live electro acoustic music performances with The Small Cars (Michael Havir and Ania Reynolds) film maker Vanessa White and dancer Peter Fraser for Saltbody exhibition.

No Former Performer

Improvised electronic music score in remount of improvised show over 3 nights with Born in a Taxi. Dancehouse Melbourne.

Toni Childs Retrospective Tour.

Australian tour dates with US singer Toni Childs. Electric keyboards and laptop artist.

The Whale

With Born in a Taxi. Soundtrack for childrens theatre production with environmental message Queensland tour.

Gut Feeling

Science-art performance installation with Born in a Taxi and designer David Murphy. Melbourne Museum.

Salt Lake and Nature Dancing

Electronic soundtracks for dance films with artist Vanessa White, dancer Peter Fraser and The Small Cars

St Sixte

Electronic soundtrack for dance film with artist Vanessa White and The Small Cars

2018

23° West

Dance film with artist Vanessa White, Finnish choreographer Favela Vera Ortiz, Icelandic performer Thora Solveig Bergsteinsdottir and synthesizer player Ania Reynolds. Finalist for the Blake Prize 2018, nominated for APRA AMCOS screen award for best music for a short film 2018 and semi finalist at the US Alternative Film Festival spring 2019.

The Small Cars

Duo recordings and performances with synthesizer player Ania Reynolds.

The Whale

With Born in a Taxi. Music and sound for childrens theatre production with environmental message featuring 9m long inflatable whale. Bleach festival and Commonwealth Games Queensland

2017

Kinetic Sculpture (Blowy Thing)

Sound-Art installation created with sculptor David Murphy. Chadstone Shopping Centre.

Loop Berlin.

International summit for music makers, technologists and creative thinkers followed by Berlin immersion. Courtesy of Creative Victoria.

Sight of Sound

Audio-visual cymatic art performance with sculptor and inventor David Murphy and musician Adam Simmons. As part of art in public spaces Logan Reserve Altona.

Tours of USA and Taiwan

Composer and sound designer with physical theatre company Born in a Taxi.

Gut Feeling

Immersive science-art installation commissioned by Artplay in collaboration with designer David Murphy and Born in a Taxi featuring an 18m long inflatable gut.

White Night – Enlighten

Collaboration with lighting company Ramus, designer David Murphy and physical theatre company Born in a Taxi for White Night Melbourne 2017.

2016.

Rebuild The Rig

Design and building of a live performance audio rig with audio engineer and software designer Jem Savage. Courtesy of Creative Victoria.

No Former Performer 2

Creative development of major new work with artists Born in a Taxi, choreographer Helen Herbertson, lighting designer and Bluebottle co-founder Ben Cobham and Berlin based improviser and current Australian Council Fellow Andrew Morrish.

Us

With dancer and physical performer Penny Baron. La Mama Explorations. Live electronic music score.

Dr Hernandez

Demo release with electro acoustic Cumbia outfit.

Melbourne Ska Orchestra ARIA award for Best World Music Album plus commercial single

2015

Clock It

21 locally sourced performers dance against the clock in consecutive 2.5 minute improvised solos. Invited to attend Oz Arts Asia Connect 2016.

River of Lives

Site specific performance on the Maribyrnong river with Born in a Taxi and Chinese musician WangZheng-Ting.

No Former Performer

With physical theatre company Born in a Taxi creating a different improvised show each night. La Mama Explorations.

Artistic residency at Bundanon Trust NSW.

Week long residency to develop new collaborative work with Born in a Taxi.

Choreographic Coding Lab #3

Intensive laboratory integrating sound and high-end 3D motion capture data with dance related datasets. Movement, art and technology research centre based at Deakin University.

The Waiting Room

Restaging of award winning semi-improvised theatre show with The Public Floor at the Newport Substation.